

PATENT SPECIFICATION

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DRAWINGS ATTACHED

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(54) IMPROVEMENTS RELATING TO EARRINGS

ERRATUM

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15 shaped portion arranged to extend around a lower portion of an ear lobe closely adjacent to the juncture of the lobe with the head, and having a first limb at one side of said U-shaped portion arranged to extend along the front surface of the lobe, said first limb having
 20 ornamental means thereon, the body member on the other side of the U-shaped portion including a second limb for lightly gripping the ear lobe and for fitting and frictionally contacting the rear contour of the ear wall, said
 25 second limb comprising a curved first portion curved so as to have a concave surface facing the first limb to form a socket with said first limb and ornamental means for receiving the lower edge of the ear lobe, a curved second
 30 portion curved so as to have a convex surface facing the first limb and leading from said curved first portion to form with said first limb and said ornamental means thereon a restricted opening to said socket to press lightly on opposite sides of the ear lobe, and a
 35 curved third portion curved so as to have a concave surface facing said first limb and leading from said curved second portion to conform to the contour of the back surface of the ear.

The invention will be further described, by way of example, with reference to the accompanying drawings, wherein:

45 Figure 1 is a side elevational view of the present earring as applied to an ear;

Figure 2 is a rear elevational view of the earring also as applied to an ear;

of the ear, the numeral 10 refers to the convex or large concavity, the numeral 18 refers to the lower narrow opening of the large concavity, the numeral 20 refers to the outwardly projecting ear wall which defines the bottom, rear and top of the concavity 16, Figure 2, and the numeral 22 designates the lowermost point of juncture of the lobe 10 with the head.

The present earring comprises a body member clip 24 preferably constructed of narrow strip material. An earring ornament 26 is secured to one end of the body member clip 24, such securement being accomplished in any suitable manner as by welding the ornament 26 and the one end of the body member clip 24 together. The ornament 26 may be of any configuration but preferably at least the rear surface 28 thereof is of convex configuration.

The general contour of the body member clip 24 will now be described, such contour being best shown in the side elevational view of Figure 3. The body member has a U-shaped portion 30 and the limb thereof opposite from the ornament supporting limb extends from the U-portion further than the ornament supporting limb. The limb of the body member opposite from the ornament supporting limb has a curved first portion 32 with a curved second portion 34 thereabove in turn leading into a curved third end portion 36. The curved portion 34 has a convex surface facing the convex rear surface 28 of the ornament 26 whilst the curved portions 32 and 36 have concave

SPE ERRATA CLIP ATTACHED

surfaces facing the rear surface 28. As apparent in Figure 3, the curved portion 32 cooperates with the other limb of the body member and the rear surface 28 of the ornament to form a socket 38 which broadens at the lower end thereof.

The body member clip 24 is constructed of a springy or resilient type material such as spring metal or spring plastics material in order that it may be flexed slightly when being mounted on the ear or removed therefrom but otherwise to compress gently certain portions of the ear to obtain a frictional grip thereon. In addition to comprising a springy material, it is desired that the body member clip 24 be capable of being reshaped or bent somewhat to accommodate ears of different shapes and thicknesses. That is, while it is desired that the body member clip 24 be constructed of resilient material so that it will return to its original shape after slight distortion, it is also desired that it be capable of being reshaped merely by bending it beyond its normal limits of flexibility.

The contour of the body member clip 24 is such as to fit the lobe of the ear at the juncture 22 of said ear with the head. Thus, the earring is installed on the bottom end of the ear lobe 10 by moving the upper end portion 36 of the respective limb of the body member clip 24 up the lobe behind the ear while maintaining the ornament in front of the ear. The earring is moved upwardly an amount sufficient to bring the U-shaped portion 30 into abutment with the lower end of the lobe 10, and in a preferred mounting the U-shaped portion is disposed closely adjacent the juncture 22 of the lobe 10 with the head.

As best apparent in Figures 2, 4 and 5 the lobe 10, in the mounted condition of the earring is confined in the socket 38 and the restricted opening 40 of the socket compresses the lobe a slight amount to obtain a frictional grip thereon. The curved portion 34 and the curved portion 36 of the body member, as seen in Figure 2, fit the rear contour of the ear. More specifically, the curved portion 34, which forms the restricted opening 40, compresses slightly the lobe of the ear, as does the portion 32, and the curved portion 36 corresponds to the shape of the rear surface of the ear wall 20 and thus lies thereagainst. Therefore, the clip engages the lobe of the ear in a slight frictional fit throughout most of its length and an end portion thereof is contoured to fit the rear contour of the ear wall 20. The end portion 36 of the body member not only adds to the frictional hold of the earring on the ear but also in its contoured engagement with the back of the ear steadies the earring against rotative or shifting movement.

The present earring is easily installed on the ear merely by pressing it up over the bottom edge of the lobe 10. There is no harsh spring clamping engagement with the ear lobe and there is a minimum of discomfort to the wearer either while the earring is being worn or during the time that it is being attached to or detached from the ear. Since it is clear that the thickness of the lobes from one person to another will vary, the body member may be bent to form the desired width socket opening 40. It has been found that the convex surface 28 on the earring ornament 26, as opposed to a flat or concave surface, makes it easier to apply the earring over the bottom edge of the lobe 10 since there are no edges that can catch on the lobe.

WHAT I CLAIM IS:—

1. An earring comprising a body member clip having a U-shaped portion arranged to extend around a lower portion of an ear lobe closely adjacent to the juncture of the lobe with the head, and having a first limb at one side of said U-shaped portion arranged to extend along the front surface of the lobe, said first limb having ornamental means thereon, the body member on the other side of the U-shaped portion including a second limb for lightly gripping the ear lobe and for fitting and frictionally contacting the rear contour of the ear wall, said second limb comprising a curved first portion curved so as to have a concave surface facing the first limb to form a socket with said first limb and ornamental means for receiving the lower edge of the ear lobe, a curved second portion curved so as to have a convex surface facing the first limb and leading from said curved first portion to form with said first limb and said ornamental means thereon a restricted opening to said socket to press lightly on opposite sides of the ear lobe, and a curved third portion curved so as to have a concave surface facing said first limb and leading from said curved second portion to conform to the contour of the back surface of the ear.

2. An earring as claimed in claim 1 in which said body member clip is resilient.

3. An earring as claimed in claim 2 in which said body member is resilient to a limited extent but may be reshaped to adjust the size of said restricted opening to said socket.

4. An earring constructed substantially as herein described with reference to and as illustrated in the accompanying drawings.

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